



Europe's Dark Cloud Report in Turkish Media (July 2016)

Europe's Dark Cloud report was introduced to Turkish media on 11th July 2016. The report has been covered in Turkish media with support on social media by national NGOs. The [press release](#) includes support by Turkish health actors regarding Turkey negative impacts from air pollution by the existing 18 and planned 80 coal power plants in the country.

“Scientific research results have proved well that coal-fired power plants have negative effects on public health and environment. Hazardous chemicals as a result of the coal burning process threaten human health through air, water and food. The research proved that every 1 TWh of electricity produced amount to 24,5 deaths in Europe. In Turkey, the annual average SO₂ levels in 24 provinces (29.7%) and the annual average PM10 levels in 80 provinces (98.8 %) exceeded the air quality limits recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015”, says Professor Dr. Kayihan Pala, President of Public Health from Uludag University School of Medicine Department.

“Air pollution contributes to lung cancers, cardiac arrests, strokes and lung diseases. Data sets by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning compared to WHO criteria, shows that Turkey's air is polluted and dangerous to human health. Existing and planned coal-fired power plants are concerning for public health,” says Assoc. Dr. Haluk Çalışır. Co-Chair of Air Pollution Working Group at Turkish Thoracic Society.

The report also received comments from health actors from Iskenderun where HEAL has been carrying out its scientific work since 2014 regarding 14 planned coal power plants in the region. *“Large numbers of planned coal-fired power plants in the Cukurova region and Iskenderun Bay where we live, is worrying regarding the results of air pollution on human health. However, I believe that Turkey 's energy needs can be meet by the sun and wind. Another world, another kind of energy is possible,”* says Dr. Ali İhsan Ökten, President of Adana Chamber of Medicines.